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U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by Maurine Knouse, Lyon County, Kansas, delivered in the National 4-H Club radio program, Saturday, December 3, 1932, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

Hello, 4-H Club friends:

I recall the thrill which I experienced when as a beginning 4-H Club member, I received a ribbon as my first award on my project exhibits, but this thrill did not compare in the least to the joy and satisfaction I have since gained from the achievements made by the members of the 4-H Club, of which I have been the leader.

The history of 4-H Club work in our county and state illustrates how club work is developing leaders from its own ranks. It is training the farm boys and girls to assume the responsibility of 4-H Club leadership, and thus to guide other boys and girls to worthwhile achievements.

Leadership begins in the home. It is here through experience that we learn the lessons which will help to make us leaders of value to our community. Through the 4-H Club projects an ideal comradeship is formed between mother and daughter or father and son, thus bringing the parents and children closer together in a common interest. I truly believe that every club member needs the cooperation of his parents in order to derive the greatest benefit from club work.

But when one becomes the local leader of a 4-H Club, his interests are not only in his own home, but reach into the homes of all boys and girls in the entire community. Leadership develops many qualities which make one a better son or daughter as well as a more useful citizen.

To me, the most interesting project that I have carried on is one which in our state is known as Junior Leadership. 4-H Club camps and training schools help to give us new ideas, inspiration and training in the handling of groups of young folks.

A good 4-H Club leader is inclined to forget himself in his interest in others. He has confidence in himself and instills confidence in the members of his club. He has a plan of what he wants to do and puts his best effort into accomplishing it. He is always ready with a word of encouragement and never lets small failures discourage him. But for him to have these qualities is not enough. He has assumed the job of training boys and girls who will be our citizens of tomorrow, and he must encourage the development of these qualities in them.

Club members want to learn the better ways of doing things on the farm and in the home and this knowledge is gained through their 4-H Club projects. The leader gives them instructions and they are responsible for carrying them out. In judging contests, they are taught to judge live stock, farm crops, garments, food products or poultry, which helps them to think quickly and to make decisions. Through contests and exhibits they are taught good sportsmanship. I think there is nothing finer than to see a good loser lose without whining and a champion win without bragging.

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Initiative and resourcefulness must be developed; and this may be done through public demonstrations, putting up exhibit booths, or working to obtain some much desired goal. I know a boy and girl in my community whose 4-H club work made it possible for them to obtain their much desired music lessons, in spite of the depression. The boy planted and tended a 4-H Club garden, and his sister canned the vegetables which he produced, then they exchanged the canned goods for their music lessons. Don't you think this boy and girl showed their resourcefulness?

Then, too, 4-H Club work teaches us unselfishness and loyalty to our home. As a result of this training, 4-H Club members learn the love of home and they work for the best interests of their home and of their neighborhood.

I want you all to know that 4-H Club work in our county has for many years been carried on with the help of our County Extension Agents. Our state club leaders at the State Agricultural College have planned and directed the work in our state. And then our fathers and mothers, by their interest and encouragement, have made it possible for us as club members and club leaders to achieve the results which have been accomplished.

Naturally, I feel that my club, my county and my state have been honored in my being awarded the Moses Trophy for this year. I hope some day to meet Mr. Moses personally and tell him how all club memberz and leaders appreciate his interest in Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club Work.

Any club leader may well take these lines for his motto:

"So Give the World the best you have,
And the Best will come Back to you."